

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 FEA-01

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EPG-02 EB-07 FPC-01

INT-05 OMB-01 OES-07 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /172 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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UNCLAS VIENNA 3714

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNIDO

SUBJECT: ELEVENTH SESSION, UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

BOARD (IDB -XI); AGENDA ITEM 8(A), APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

(ID/B/188)

1. THE LIMA CONFERENCE, BY RESOLUTION, REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT URGENTLY TO PREPARE "A CONCRETE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM OF ACTION" FOR THE CREATION, TRANSFER AND USE BY LDC'S OF APPROPRIATE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. DOCUMENT ID/B/188 REPORTS TO THE IDB ON SECRETARIAT ACTION TO DATE AND PROPOSES A PROGRAM OF ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE RESOLUTION.

2. THE REPORT IS COMPOSED OF THREE CHAPTERS; CONCEPT AND APPROACH, PROGRAM OF ACTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION. THE SECRETARIAT DEFINES APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AS "TECHNOLOGY THAT CONTRIBUTES THE MOST TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT". WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THESE OBJECTIVES WILL VARY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, THE PAPER STRESSES THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN INFLUENCING, BY DIRECT INTERVENTION OR INDIRECTLY, THE SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY BY INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES.

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2. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ACTION LAYS EMPHASIS ON MEASURES TO ASSIST LDC'S TO DEVELOP NATIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR SELECTION, AND ADAPTATION OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES; IN APPLICATION, IT FORESEES CONCENTRATION ON SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES AT THE SECTORAL LEVEL. EIGHT BROAD AREAS OF ACTIVITY ARE PROPOSED:

- EVALUATION AND COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES
- PROMOTION OF RESEARCH (INCLUDING 15 SPECIFIC PROJECTS)
- COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
(5 SPECIFIC PROJECTS)
- APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT (8
SPECIFIC PROJECTS)
- ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY (4 SPECIFIC PROJECTS)
- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES
- INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- TRAINING PROGRAMS

3. WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSES, AS FIRST STEP, TO "MOBILIZE THE INTEREST OF THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED" BY "A) ORGANIZING CONSULTATION MEETINGS OF INTERESTED PARTIES ALONG THE LINES OF THE UNIDO SECTORAL CONSULTATIONS, (B) ESTABLISHING A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, WHOSE ANNUAL MEETINGS WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION, AND (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM TO MONITOR, ANALYZE AND FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TO REPORT PERIODICALLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE IDB ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED. FINALLY, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THERE EXISTS NO CENTRAL FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, AND SUGGESTS THAT SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

4. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE SECRETARIAT'S CONCEPT OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IS VAGUE AND BASICALLY SOCIOLOGICAL
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IN NATURE; IT LAYS STRESS ON THE STATIST NTION OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGY AT THE LEVEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL ENTREPRENEUR. THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS LISTED IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION, MOREOVER, DO NOT SEEM TO BE RELATED DIRECTLY TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT, BUT APPEAR, RATHER, TO BE A GRAB-BAG OF PROJECTS THAT HAVE FOUND NO FINANCIAL HOME ELSEWHERE; NO ORDER OF PRIORITIES IS LISTED FOR THEIR EXECUTION. THE REPORT, IN OUR OPINION, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INTEGRATED "COOPERATIVE PLAN OF ACTION", BUT IS BASICALLY A COMPILATION OF POSSIBLE PROJECTS. WHILE U.S. DEL COULD EXPRESS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE NOTION THAT THE LDC'S SHOULD CAREFULLY CHOOSE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TO FIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES, IT SHOULD MAKE PLAN THAT IT DOES NOT ENDORSE THE REPORT AS WHOLE, NOR ALL THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS LISTED IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ASSUME U.S. DEL SHOULD DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE ASPECTS OF SUGGESTED PROJECTS THAT MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE FINANCED FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET (E.G., STUDIES OR COMPILATION OF INFORMATION) AND THOSE WHICH SHOULD

LOOK TO VOLUNTARY FUNDS (E.G., PILOT PROJECTS). CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM U.S. DEL COULD STATE (RE PARA 107) THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO UNIOD ORGANIZING TECHNICAL MEETINGS OF THE KIND DESCRIBED IF CAREFUL SOUNDINGS BY THE SECRETARIAT INDICATE THEY WOULD BE FRUITFUL. HOWEVER, THESE SHOULD NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS "CONSULTATION MEETINGS" SINCE WE WOULD NOT REGARD THEM AS FALLING WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS AUTHORIZED BY IDB-X. THE USE OF A SMALL CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO ADVISE THE SECRETARIAT FROM TIME TO TIME (PARA 108) MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL IN HELPING TO BETTER DEFINE THE PROGRAM. FINALLY, U.S. DEL COULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE ANY USG/AID EFFORTS TO DEVELOP CONCEPTS OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. THE U.S. DEL COULD SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS BY IDB-XI: (A) TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT AND FORWARD IT TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GA AS AN INFORMATION DOCUMENT; (B) ENDORSE THE STEPS SUGGESTED IN PARAS 107 AND 108 TO THE EXTENT INDICATED IN PARA 4 ABOVE; (C) ENDORSE THE CONTINUED MONITORING BY THE SECRETARIAT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD (PARA 109) WITH PERIODIC REPORTING TO THE IDB (SUCH REPORTS NEED NOT GO TO THE GA); AND (D) CALL FOR THE PREPARATION OF A FOLLOWUP REPORT TO THE NEXT IDB OR PC WHICH WOULD DELINEATE MORE CLEARLY THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND INCLUDE SOME INDICATION OF THE PRIORITIES TO BE ATTACHED TO THE LIST OF SUGGESTED SPECIFIC PROJECTS. STIBRAVY

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